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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #263 - As of 4:30 pm EDT)

Today has been a day of verbal attacks by the rebels against the US, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Imbert regime.

In a mass rally held this morning in Independence Park the rebel leaders re-affirmed their "commitment" to the 1963 constitution while condemning US "intervention." According to press reports the rally attracted upwards of 10-15,000 people. Ostensibly held at the behest of the "National Congress", the rally attracted many of the leading rebel leaders as speakers, including Caamano, Hector Aristy, and Jose Pena Gomez, a member of Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party. Pena Gomez read a message from Bosch which stated that "thousands of Dominicans have died for the 1963 constitution" and that they "must rest assured that we will not give up until the constitution of 1963 is restored." Caamano for his part said that the rebels "will not yield an inch" or "accept the neutralization of the Dominican Revolution." Throughout the rally, which was held under a broiling sun, the crowd was reported as chanting and on occasion shouting "Yankee get out."

In addition, speakers at the rally blasted the OAS, charging that it had acted in contradiction of its own charter. As a result, one speaker added, the OAS "helped to conceal the US aggression" and thereby "lost much prestige."

Although there may be reason to question the number of people reported to have turned out for the rally, it does appear that this was the largest pro-rebel manifestation to date. Good weather, and the added impetus of the rebel charges of US responsibility for last night's firings into the rebel

State Dept. review completed

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area may have been partly responsible for the turnout.

The rebels also continued their verbal attacks against the Imbert regime today. Rebel Radio Santo Domingo (Constitutionalist) broadcast this morning a vitriolic blast against the loyalist military entitled "Fear and Distrust in the Barracks." The broadcast stated that the "high officers" not only distrust one another but fear that the younger officers and regular soldiers are "waiting for the chance to join their brothers in the common ideal of a free fatherland." The station went on to say that it is an open secret that the San Isidro generals "were on the verge of dealing an internal coup to Imbert when he...turned over the National Palace to the Organization of American States." The broadcast also held that there was a group of officers at the loyalist headquarters who were not allowed to leave the area with arms. In concluding the station said that "Generalissimo Imbert Barrera not only heads a government without people but he does not even have authority within his own clique" and is only a figurehead behind which stand the "big generals" who desire to control the country "so as to continue their old attacks, graft and smuggling."

The United States continues to be blamed for the cease-fire violation which took place last night. Preliminary investigation of shell fragments indicates that the mortar round was not of US manufacture. In addition, the UN representatives who witnessed the firing--which they claim emanated from the US lines on the east bank of the Ozama River--have been assured that US troops do not use mortars.

This morning a member of the UN Secretariat told a US representative at that organization that the report received from the UN observers in Santo Domingo was factual and did not try to assess blame or speculate on the source of the firing. The US mission at the UN commented that the introduction of new investigative procedures in Santo Domingo would reduce, if not terminate, the direct submission of unsubstantiated, rebel-inspired reports to the secretary general.

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The US Embassy in Santo Domingo reports that the river area where the incident occurred has long been a favorite area for the rebels to provoke firing. To deny the rebels any further excuse for provoking General Palmer has withdrawn a 500-man airborne battalion, replacing it with a 100-man unit with instructions to stay out of the open and return fire only under extreme provocation.

Meanwhile, the rebel "government" has sent a formal complaint to the UN regarding the alleged US violation.

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The Inter-American Human Rights Commission is continuing its investigation in the Dominican Republic. Yesterday the commission visited prisons of both sides; they found loyalist prison conditions worse than Caamano's because of overcrowding. They managed to interview prisoners privately and the prisoners said that they had not been beaten or otherwise deliberately mistreated. The commission left this morning on a trip to the interior towns of Santiago and San Francisco de Macoris.

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The OAS commission is also visiting the contending camps. It met yesterday afternoon with rebel leaders Caamano, Hector Aristy, Jottin Cury, and Manuel Montes Arache. Caamano more or less repeated the standard rebel line. He did state, however, that 2,700 people had died for the 1963 constitution; it was not clear if this was a total casualty figure or just rebel losses. As usual Aristy and Cury did most of the talking. The commission planned to meet with Imbert this morning.

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